MacPaw stands with Ukraine. Here's how you can help our country win with just several clicks

How to delete iOS software updates from Mac?

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Writer and blogger at MacPaw, curious just about everything.

Before we start

Having spent some years coding applications for macOS, we've created a tool that everybody can use. The all-round problem fixer for Mac.

So here's a tip for you: Download CleanMyMac to quickly solve some of the issues mentioned in this article. But to help you do it all by yourself, we've gathered our best ideas and solutions below.

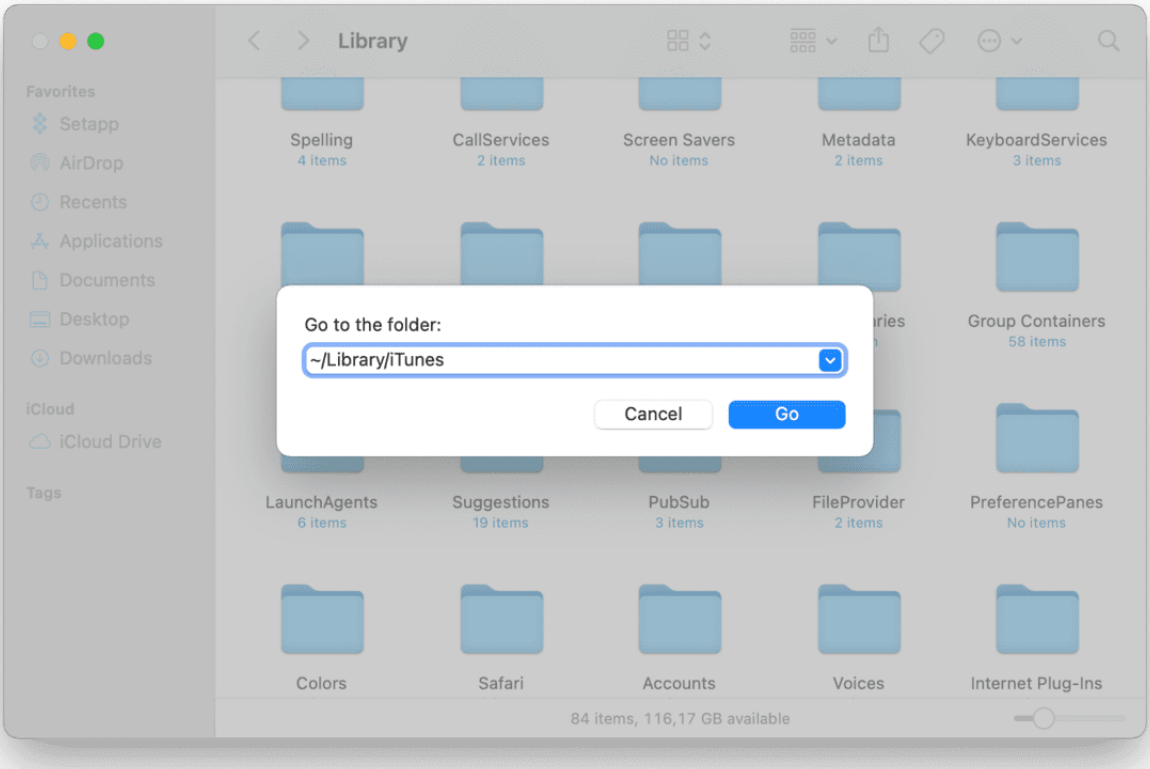
Features described in this article refer to the MacPaw site version of CleanMyMac X.

What are iOS software updates?

iOS software updates are files that you download every time you want to update the software of your iPhone, iPad, or iPod via iTunes. After your device has been updated, you don’t need the file you downloaded, and thus, you can remove it and free up a significant amount of space on your Mac. And in case you need to use such a file again, you can re-download it just like you did it for the first time.

Apple has replaced iTunes with Music, Podcasts, Books, and Apple TV with the release of macOS Catalina. Finder is the new place to back up, update, or restore your devices. But, if your Mac's running macOS Mojave or later, you can still use iTunes. Now, let's see how you can remove old iOS software updates from your Mac.

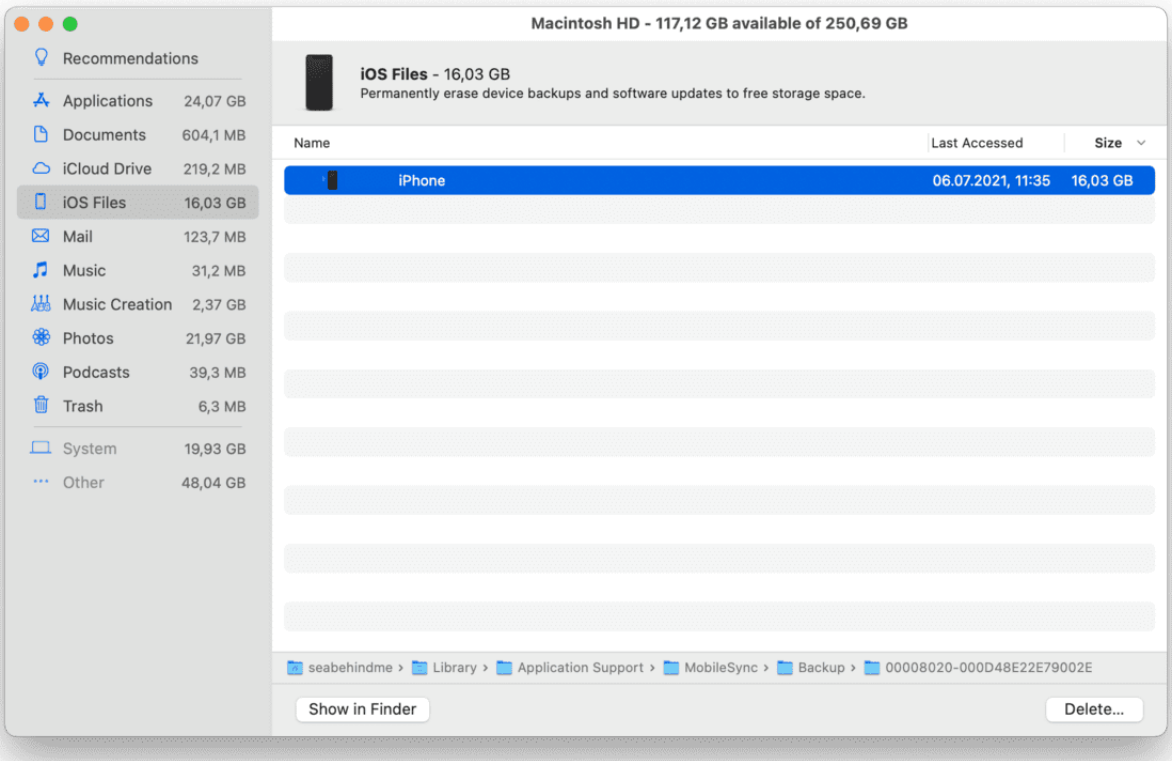
How to remove old iOS firmware files from Mac manually?



iOS update files can be found at `~/Library/iTunes`, where "~" is your Home folder. Notice that software updates differ for different devices. That means that, for instance, the iPad firmware files will be kept at `~/Library/iTunes/iPad Software Updates`, while you will find the same files for iPhone in `~/Library/iTunes/iPhone Software Updates`.

How to remove old iOS backups?

If you've backed up your device on your Mac, there are probably some old backup files lying around on your hard drive. Here's how to remove them to free up some space:



1. Go to Apple menu > About This Mac.
2. Select the Storage tab.
3. Click Manage.
4. In the left-side menu, choose iOS Files.
5. Select the backup you want to remove and press Delete.

And it's done!

How to clear your Mac of software updates automatically?